Export of ALH

1052. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether two indigenously built Advanced Light Helicopters had been sent to Paris for taking part in Air Show held from June 15 to 22;

(b) if so, whether India is in a position to sell this type of helicopters to other countries; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Marketing efforts are being made in overseas markets.

Efficacy of NCC training

1053. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether question has been raised in annual conference of NCC Directors about the efficacy of training being imparted to the National Cadet Corps (NCC);

(b) whether the selection of NCC Cadets in Armed Forces has come down;

(c) if so, the reasons for the same; and

(d) the steps being taken to improve the training in NCC?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) The annual conference of Deputy Directors General of all States NCC Directorates was held on 3-4 April, 2003. During the conference, all aspects of training were discussed including steps to be taken to further enhance efficacy of training being imparted to NCC cadets.

(b) No, Sir. NCC certificate holders have continued to be reasonably represented in the Armed Forces.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

(d) Improvement is a continuous process. To make NCC training more effective, adventure activities like mountaineering, para-sailing, white water rafting, microlite aircraft flying and scuba diving have been extended to a large number of cadets.

Agreement with Israel regarding weapon system

1054. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether agreement has been reached between India and Israel to invest 100 million dollar in the development of Arrow II weapon system;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the defence agreement signed between two countries during last three years; and

(d) the amount involved in these deals?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d) India have been signing agreements with Israel for defence equipments. It is not in the interest of national security to disclose such matters on the Floor of the House.

Lack of storage facilities for explosives

†1055. SHRI ABHAY KANT PRASAD: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to news-item captioned, "Daid lakh tonne gola barud rakhne ki vyavastha nahin" which appeared in the media recently;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether this problem has been caused due to the increasing incidents of fire in Ordnance depots; and

(d) if so, what remedial steps are being taken by Government in this regard?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.